

The Fad for Occult Sciences

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

There is hardly a city in the United States that has not the sign of a clairvoyant, a fortune teller, or palm reader hanging enticingly over some door. There is not a city or town, or even a country neighborhood, that has not its ardent devotees of the mystical, whether they know what the belief is or not. It is human nature to speculate on things hidden and to marvel over them, and it is also human nature to ask some one who claims to be a little wiser than ourselves to help us solve those hidden mysteries. We must be amused and entertained even if things are somewhat distorted for that purpose. In one of Victor Hugo's stories we are told of a king in old Cathay who bought children and had them placed in queerly shaped iron frames in order that their bodies might grow in that shape and furnish a queer assortment of monstrosities and deformities for his amusement. To-day the sciences known to ancient Egypt, India, and Chaldea are being distorted into queer shapes that we may be amused, that our love of the mystic may be gratified.

Astrology, palmistry, and psychology have all been perverted from their original uses and made the means for charlatans to play on a people ever ready to be duped. These were legitimate sciences in the long ago. Students devoted their whole lives to them, and sorrowed that their years were not longer. Great libraries of the occult sciences alone were built up in Alexandria and Cairo to become prey to the invading armies of Greek, Roman, or French. And to-day ruins are left to show where they stood. The things they taught have become matters of tradition. In Egypt, even to-day, no one is permitted to practice palmistry as a science until he has devoted eight years of close study to it. A time longer even than many lands require for the study of medicine. Over here, a book, a chart, a lesson or two from one who believes he can read the hand and the soul, and presto! some pretty girl is all ready to scan the lines of your hand and tell you what the future is hiding from you, and what the past has brought you. She can give the proper names for all the bumps and lines and crosses on your palm, and she can tell you the names of the planets and the stars of the Orient, can't she? But she cannot tell you why these names have been chosen, nor can she trace for you the slender, delicate nerves that govern these, as could the students of olden times. She cannot tell you the philosophy and cleverly gratifies your personal vanity by detailing the various flattering traits that you are supposed to possess, but usually that is all there is to it.

To the real student of palmistry, fresh from the Orient, where that science is almost sacred, the work of these dabblers is nothing short of sacrilege. He sees long years of patient study of psychology, physiology, and philosophy, and is taught by a people who are to him mere pretenders to the kingdom of science. He recalls the traditions of his ancestors, and is able to recount instances among the Pharaohs, where Egyptian philosophers and savants, rich in the lore of palmistry, stood as counselors to kings. His science is older than the Moslem laws. It reaches far back to a time before the Hyksos kings and the dawn of Judaism in Egypt. To this student it is no surprise that the palmist is called on for his stilted rite. His science teaches him that from the day an infant is born there are lines of character in the hand; that as the years go by opportunity is given to make or mar this character; that the left hand shows the potentialities, the right the uses or abuses of these powers. In the old days, when Egypt was yet a land of political greatness, no career was chosen for a child until his tiny hand had been read by a seer. In the pink fists lie, so they say, the destinies of the future. Parents were taught to regard these lines with their signs and promises. This prevented an embryo statesman from being sent to study medicine, a musician from being turned into a mechanic, and a scientist from being made into a philosopher. A thing that happens too often because parents make the choice from their own wishes. An ancient Indian drama, played 400 years before Christ, has a scene in which the ruler of the state calls on the philosophers and wise men to read the hands of many children, in order to select for him a suitable successor.

China, too, has known palmistry as a deep and worthy science for countless centuries. Inscrutable yellow faces through long days have pored over maps and charts that explained the nerves of the body, observing the ramifications of these nerves and reasoning all the parts they play in shaping the expression of hand or face. Long-pointed nails have followed, line by line, the markings on the hand and have read the things the things the hand has done, the things it might have done, the things it will do. And in all the world no two hands have ever been found that were marked alike.

Fingers, long or short, cone-shaped or spatulate, tapering, or for countless centuries have indicated to the scientist the character of the person he studies until on this diversity in hand shapes has been built one of the modern helps in the study of criminology—that of identification by finger prints. It is now to us, but very old in the Orient. It is one phase of palmistry that we have accepted as legitimate, and that has been raised to the dignity of a study without degradation. In early Chinese history the thumb mark was used as a passport, and woe be unto him who tried a counterfeit.

There is a theory that the American Indians may have had a bit of knowledge of palmistry, though, doubtless, most meager. This is based on a carving that adorns the face of a rock overlooking Lake Kojemkojic, in Nova Scotia. The carving represents the hand of a man turned palm up. On this palm are marked all the primary lines that usually adorn the hand of man, and indicates in their arrangement that the hand they represent was one of strong character. Whether this relic of the Micmac Indians is a rough etching of the hand of a beloved chief or the earliest American sign of the professional palmist is not known. It may be the preservation of some science known to remote ancestors of the Indian race in the days when it is believed this hemisphere received its first red-skin population.

The exponents of the occult science do a thriving business because people are eager to find what lies beyond, despite the fact that the Good Book declares this knowledge inaccessible to the children of men. We flock eagerly into the dim parlors of the so-called savant and ask him to lift for us the veil that obscures our future, to tell us how to invest our money, to win back our friends, and to recover lost articles. When he accidentally hits on some lucky number we marvel over his genius and almost believe in him.

We go to the cabin of some negro mammy whose voodoo knowledge is not many years out of Africa, and while she mixes some concoction as heterogeneous in its make-up as that brewed by the witches in "Macbeth," she will mutter and mumble and finally deliver a bit of ambiguous advice that may be taken in half a dozen fashions. A charm makes this advice more easily realized, and bits of hair, chicken bones, and bird feathers tied in a bundle constitute a mystic sym-

bol against which the powers of evil, according to her faith, cannot prevail. We hear that a gypsy van has arrived in the neighborhood, and soon see our neighbors going down to interview the dark-eyed devil who for picturesque groups around the camp. The three slimmer on the vans drawn up in a circle, the horses peer curiously through the smoke, the men of the clan gather in groups and lend a picturesque air to the scene as the light strikes a silver button here, a dark face or a gaudy handkerchief there. The prophetic of the clan, after her own palm has been crossed with a bit of silver, follows the lines of the hand with a claw-like finger, covertly watching the expression of the face the while, and in a speech composed of subtle phrases, obscure references, and mystical allusions, tells of brave men, fair women, the crossing of dark waters, the coming of unexpected fortunes, accidents by land and sea, and love or loss, as her imagination may provide.

Whether it be faith or superstition or hunger for amusement that leads us to

APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY

By CECILIA A. LOIZEAUX.

Mrs. Holton entered her sister Susan's room, and, sinking into the nearest chair, undid her collar. This was preparatory to the rite, sacred in Milton, of dressing for the afternoon. Susan, who, notwithstanding the fact that she had just returned from an art school and did not deny being artistic, refused to be called Suzanne, was doing something to her face, with the aid of a hand glass and many unbecoming grimaces.

"What are you going to wear this afternoon?" inquired Mrs. Holton in an elaborately careless voice.

"Nothing—that is, I'm going to wash my hair, since there is not a place in this metropolis where I can have it washed for me."

"But, Susan! Not in the afternoon. There will surely be callers."

"Just say I'm not at home, and don't bother," said Susan, drawing out her hair pins and letting her red hair down over her yellow and brown and tan kimono.

"You forget that you are not in New York," said her sister sharply. "Do try to forget that you have been to an art school and be decent to people. Not at home! Not go here. Every one in this village knows that you are home, for you couldn't possibly get away without some one seeing you go. And, anyway, I asked that Mr. Bates over to call on you."

"Kind of you. What Mr. Bates?" asked Susan, dropping her comb and stooping to pick it up.

"Mrs. Barton's nephew. He's from the East somewhere, and he has the nicest manners. I thought maybe you'd like to have some one come who is a little more like the men you are used to," she added.

"I would!" said Susan emphatically. "And it was nice of you to think of it. Perhaps he'll come late in the afternoon and my hair will be all dry. I'll hurry!" And she ran down the hall and slammed the bathroom door after her.

"There's something familiar about the name," she said to her face in the glass. "Susan. And that was why I ran away." As she had hoped he would, the man dropped the kimono in his amazement, and she darted up the stairs, leaving him looking after her with fear in his eyes.

"Susan—tell me."

"Susan—tell me the banisters, and smiled at him. "But of course I can't get married until some one asks me," she said, and before he could get to her door the door had slammed.

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WED AT ELKS' CONVENTION.

Baltimorean and Richmond Belle marry in Philadelphia. Special to The Washington Herald. Philadelphia, July 21.—As a fitting climax to a week of pleasure incident to the Elks' convention, Miss H. Ethel Hicks, of Richmond, Va., yesterday became Mrs. J. A. Noel, of Baltimore, and will transfer her residence to that city. Miss Hicks, accompanied by mother and sister, Mrs. M. L. Anderson, came to Philadelphia to see the sights. Whether or not the young couple were engaged prior to this week is not known. In any event the Baltimore Elks was most devoted to the Richmond belle, and decided to wed and spend their honeymoon in Atlantic City.

They searched for two hours for a minister, but failing to find one they at last went to the headquarters of the executive committee and unloaded their troubles on the broad shoulders of "Theater" Ray, chairman of the committee, who put them on the track of a minister, and they went away happy.

Telephone for cottagers. Line Will Connect Annapolis-on-the-Bay with Annapolis. Special to The Washington Herald. Annapolis, Md., July 21.—Annapolis-on-the-Bay, near old Bay Ridge, about six miles below Annapolis, which, for many years, has been a favorite place for summer homes of a number of Washingtonians, is to have telephone communication with Annapolis and, incidentally, other outside points.

The cottagers have long contended for this convenience without result until this year. The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company is now constructing the line, and it is expected that it will be in operation by August 1.

DECIDE SUDDENLY TO WED.

Miss Jessie Moore and William McCanness Surprise Friends.

Special to The Washington Herald. Salisbury, N. C., July 21.—Miss Jessie Moore, daughter of Judge and Mrs. J. I. Moore, of Stuart, Va., and William McCanness, son of the city's wealthy real-estate dealer, were married this morning in the Methodist parsonage.

Miss Moore was here on a visit and preparing to return, when the sudden determination to marry struck the couple, and the preacher was called. Not even the hostesses, the Misses Martin, had knowledge of the event. The couple went North on their bridal trip.

ELKS' DAY AT THE EXPOSITION

Antlered Order Will Celebrate Today at Jamestown.

Thousands of Members on Way Home from Philadelphia Reunion to Take Part.

Special to The Washington Herald. Norfolk, Va., July 21.—Five thousand Elks, it is estimated to-night, are in the city for the celebration of Elks' Day at the Jamestown Exposition to-morrow. It is expected that as many more will arrive before the celebration commences.

They commenced coming in early this morning, and were still coming at a lively rate to-night. Local committees of Elks met all trains and boats, bid the arrivals welcome, and escorted them to Elks' Home, where all of them report. Elks' Home has been wide open to-day.

Grand Exalted Elder John K. Tener, elected to his high office in Philadelphia, was one of the first to arrive. He and other high officers of the order were taken on an excursion to Jamestown to-day. Many of the visitors brought their wives and children with them.

Keep posted by having The Washington Herald follow you. Can be mailed to any address in United States for 35c a month, daily and Sunday.

Funeral of Mrs. Blisson. The funeral of Mrs. Marantha Blisson, whose death occurred Thursday night, took place this afternoon at 4 o'clock from her late residence, 108 North Fayette street. The services were conducted by Rev. Edgar Carpenter, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, and the interment was made in Bethel Cemetery. The following served as pallbearers: W. Recker, Frank Cox, M. Schuler, Luther Carter, R. Ramer, and E. J. Butler.

Cyclist Runs Down Child. Daniel Nelson, colored, is locked up at the station house awaiting a hearing before Justice Caton in the police court to-morrow morning on the charge of riding a bicycle over a little son of Theodore Ale, who resides in Royal street. While Nelson was riding past the corner of King and Royal streets last night his wheel struck the child, inflicting painful but not serious injuries. The additional charge of falling to have his bicycle provided with a light is lodged against the defendant. Officers Young and Roberts made the arrest.

It was reported this evening that the condition of little William Creggan, who received concussion of the brain by being struck by a delivery wagon yesterday, remained very serious. The recovery of the child is not expected.

The funeral of Mrs. Annie E. Whalen, whose death occurred last evening, will be held Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock from St. Mary's Catholic Church. The services will be conducted by Rev. Father Kelly, the assistant pastor, and the interment will be made in St. Mary's Cemetery.

A large delegation of colored people from Washington, headed by a brass band, came here by ferry this afternoon and took part in the ceremonies incident to the laying of the corner stone of the new William McKinley Normal and Industrial School for colored youths.

Train Kills Old Soldier.

Special to The Washington Herald. Cumberland, Md., July 21.—Jacob Lohr, aged sixty years, who had been living in a soldiers' home in the South, and who had come to his family at Allegheny, near Frothingham, Friday, on a visit, was struck and killed yesterday by a Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad train at Allegheny.

Young Swimmer Drowned. Special to The Washington Herald. Lynchburg, Va., July 21.—George Snead, aged eleven years, and three other little boys stole off from home this evening to go bathing in the river. He got beyond his depth and was drowned. His body was recovered.

Henry Settle Struck by Train.

Special to The Washington Herald. Culpeper, Va., July 21.—Henry Settle, who lives near this city, was knocked down by a passenger train on the Southern Railway this morning. His legs were crushed and he was injured internally.

If you are in need of anything, put a word in the Herald, and see how quick you get results.

BOYCOTT NOT LIKELY

Alexandria Electric Will Remain on Fair List.

TRADES COUNCIL IN SESSION Sentiment at Open Meeting Decidedly Against the Proposed Action. Trolley Car Men Charge Organization Being Deserter in Fight for Existence—Report to C. L. U.

WASHINGTON HERALD BUREAU, (Bell Telephone 68.) 629 King Street.

Alexandria, Va., July 21.—That there is no immediate prospect for a boycott of the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway by organized labor was clearly shown by the proceedings of the Alexandria Trades Council in the hall of the organization in King street, where the advisability of adopting radical measures against the road was discussed. There was no definite action taken at the session, but the sentiment expressed was distinctly opposed to declaring a boycott under existing conditions.

The meeting was called by the trades council for the purpose of conferring with an adjustment committee from the Central Labor Union of Washington and the local branch of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees in regard to the situation growing out of the discharge of union men by the railroad company. It was proposed to go over the case with a view to having a final report made to-morrow to the Central Labor Union on the prospects for the success of a movement to withdraw the patronage of union workmen from the road.

GOING TO PONY ROUND-UP.

Gov. and Mrs. Swanson Plan Trip to Chincoteague Island.

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The governor will go with the State board of fisheries, the members of which will transact considerable business during the trip. Neither the governor nor Mrs. Swanson has ever witnessed a pony round-up.

WOMAN DIES IN CHURCH.

Mrs. John E. Claggett Stricken with Heart Disease in Choir.

Special to The Washington Herald. Rockville, Md., July 21.—During a special service in the M. E. Church, Gaithersburg, this afternoon, Mrs. John E. Claggett, of this vicinity, while sitting in the choir, was suddenly stricken with heart failure and died in half an hour.

Mrs. Claggett, before marriage, was Miss Fannie Beall. Both her family and that of her husband are widely known and highly esteemed throughout this section.

SUMMER RESORTS.

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ATLANTIC CITY.

ALL NEW BUT THE NAME. New Hotel Islesworth, Overlooking the Boardwalk and Steel Pier. 60 Newly Furnished Rooms, in suite and single. Baths with sea water connections. Our patrons our reference. We please you. Bookings and rates for the season. WM. HYMAN, Prop., W. F. GREEN, Mgr.

HOTEL MAJESTIC The White House of Atlantic City. Large airy rooms, superior table, home comforts; reasonable rates; booklet mailed. J. B. ELLIS. A. F. GREENE.

BERKSHIRE INN Ocean and Virginia. Elevator. 40 to 45 weekly. Cap. 300. Sea room. J. O. & J. E. DICKINSON. J. B. ELLIS.

VERMONT HOUSE Vermont ave., near Beach. Open surroundings, extra large rooms, first-class table and service. 50 to 60 weekly. M. E. GEIGER. J. B. ELLIS.

COLWYN, South Michigan Avenue. 15 to 20 weekly. F. W. WILBERTON. J. B. ELLIS.

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Pine Beach Hotel, Crestview Inn, Ingle Inn, Hotel Brooklyn, Sea View, States Hotel.

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At Norfolk the paper may be had at the following named hotels:

Monticello, Algonquin, Lorraine, Norfolk, Myer's Hotel, Progress, Victoria.

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McDONOUGH'S COTTAGE

OCEAN VIEW, VIRGINIA. Cars to the Exposition Every 10 minutes; fare, 5c. SPECIAL RATES TO PARTIES.

Algonquin Hotel, Norfolk, Va. Modern hotel of modern equipment; accommodations 200. European plan. Excellent care. Cars to Jamestown Exposition. Rooms from 10c to 15c. W. C. ROYAL, Manager, or ask Mr. Foster. J. B. ELLIS.

WILLOUGHBY BEACH HOTEL, WILLOUGHBY BEACH, VA. Special rates for Washington people while visiting the Jamestown Exposition. Ocean view. 10c to 15c. Cars to and from Old Point Comfort. W. C. ROYAL, Manager. J. B. ELLIS.

MINNEHAHA COTTAGE Willoughby Beach. Moderate rates for room and board; most select part of Ocean View. R. D. GUY, Ocean View, Va. J. B. ELLIS.

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AMERICAN Rental Bureau 31 Granby st., Norfolk, Va. The place to go for the good room. Information, assistance; baggage checked. J. B. ELLIS.

THE BEST STOPPING PLACES FOR VISITORS attending the Jamestown Exposition are advertised in "The Washington Visitor." H. P. MIAHS, Norfolk, Va. Write for free copy. J. B. ELLIS.

K. OF C. HOLD REUNION.

Special to The Washington Herald. Frostburg, Md., July 21.—The Knights of Columbus of this county held a reunion and an exemplification of the three degrees of the order to-day, closing the reunion with a banquet at Hotel Gladstone to-night. The entire affair was under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus of Midland, and was presided by high master at St. Michael's Catholic Church, with a sermon by Rev. S. J. Clarke, pastor.

In the afternoon special trains were run from Cumberland and Piedmont, bringing large crowds of people. The parade was formed at the station, headed by the Midland Independent Cornet Band, and the line of march led to the Frostburg Opera House, where the degree work was exemplified. Specially drilled teams conducted the work. Knights were present from Conowingo, Pa.; Grantsville, W. Va.; Piedmont, W. Va.; Cumberland, and Mount Savage.

STATISTICIANS TO MEET.

Officers of Bureau of Labor Will Convene at Jamestown.

Special to The Washington Herald. Richmond, Va., July 21.—James B. Doherty, labor commissioner, will leave to-morrow for the Jamestown Exposition to deliver an address upon the industrial development in Virginia since the creation of his office, before the twenty-third annual convention of the Association of Officers of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Charles P. Neill, of Washington, D. C., will also make an address.

Harvey St. George Tucker, president of the exposition company, will welcome the delegates on behalf of the exposition. Mayor Riddick, of Norfolk, will perform a like office on behalf of his city.

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